REMARKS

The present application includes claims 1-9. Claims 1-8 have been rejected by the Examiner. By this Response, claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 have been amended, and new claim 9 has been added.

Claim 2 was objected to based on the reference to "said subsets" rather than "said subset". Claim 5 included the same reference. The Applicant has amended claims 2 and 5 to recite "said subset" and requests the objection be withdrawn.

Further, claims 1, 2, and 6 have been amended to remove the "means" language from the claims and instead recite apparatus or system elements.

Independent claim 1 has also been amended to further recite that the at least one V-PROM logically groups discrete data and program entities to emulate EPROM media, and that the presentation program function is configured to retrieve data and program entity information from the V-PROM. Claim 1 has also been amended to recite that the selection program isolates a subset of the contents of the V-PROM based on user input for at least one of execution and authentication of the subset.

Independent claim 6 has been amended to further recite that the at least one V-PROM logically groups executable software and related data to emulate EPROM media, and that the presentation program retrieves executable software and related data from the V-PROM. Claim 6 has also been amended to recite isolating a subset of the contents of the V-PROM based on user input for at least one of execution and authentication of the subset.

Claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,643,086 (hereinafter Alcorn) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,003,507 (hereinafter Johnson). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Alcorn is directed to the use of RSA authentication to authenticate a particular program or fixed data set in a mass storage device on an electronic casino gaming machine. See, e.g., Abstract. The system of Alcorn does not verify program data on an EPROM, nor does it disclose any emulation of an EPROM through V-PROMS as recited in the pending claims of the present application.

Johnson is directed to an EPROM emulator for paging EPROMS used in a test circuit. See, e.g., col. 1, lines 9-15. The EPROM emulator of Johnson uses hardware switches and SRAMs to form an EPROM simulator for software development purposes. See, e.g., col. 2, lines 12-43. Johnson makes no mention of games, casinos, or electronic gaming machines and should not be combined with Alcorn. However, even combining the Johnson paging EPROM fails to disclose all of the elements recited in the presently pending claims.

For example, neither Johnson nor Alcorn, taken alone or in combination, teaches or reasonably suggests or motivates a control apparatus for emulating EPROM media including not only control logic but also at least one V-PROM logically grouping discrete data and program entities to emulate EPROM media, as recited in independent claim 1. Neither Johnson nor Alcorn, taken alone or in combination, discloses a presentation program function configured to retrieve data and program entity information from the V-PROM. Neither Alcorn nor Johnson, taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests

a selection program isolating a subset of the contents of the V-PROM based on user input for at least one of execution and authentication of the subset. These limitations are recited in amended independent claim 1 of the present application.

Similarly, neither Alcorn nor Johnson, taken alone or in various combinations, teaches, reasonably suggests, or motivates one to provide at least one V-PROM resident on a non-volatile storage wherein the at least one V-PROM logically groups executable software and related data to emulate EPROM media, as recited in amended independent claim 6. Further, neither Alcorn nor Johnson, taken alone or together, discloses providing a presentation program to retrieve executable software and related data from the V-PROM. This limitation is recited in claim 6. Claim 6 also recites isolating a subset of the contents of the V-PROM based on user input for at least one of execution and authentication of the subset. This feature is lacking from the disclosures of both Alcorn and Johnson, even if combined.

None of Alcorn, Johnson, and their hypothetical combination teach or reasonably suggest including a V-PROM registry configured to store logical EPROM grouping information for related stored programs and data sets to be installed and executed at a gaming device, as recited in new dependent claim 9.

Therefore, for at least the reasons described above, the Applicant submits that pending claims 1-9 should be allowable over the cited art of record.

The Applicant also submits that the pending claims should also be allowable over the art cited but not relied upon in this action, including U.S. Patent No. 5,768,563.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant submits that the claims define allowable subject matter and are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicant can be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the Applicant at the number below. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayment to the USPTO Deposit Account MHM, Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,

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